

Matthew 6:5-15
Prayer

Introduction.

A. Why pray?

1. Implies "...since God knows the outcome already."
2. Prayer moves the hand of God.
 - a. Our prayers are always in the present tense to God.
 - b. Thus, our praying or lack of praying is relevant to him.
3. We are commanded to pray.
4. We have the example of Jesus, the apostles, the Church.
5. It's good for us.
 - a. Seeing prayers answered.
 - b. Thanksgiving.
 - c. Worship.
 - d. Praise.
 - e. Expressions of love.

B. The Church was born in a prayer meeting.

C. Since prayer moves the hand of God, we should be praying more (Ac.2:42).

D. Matthew 6: 5-15 teaches us two things not to do and two things to do.

I. Not to do (5).

A. Pray to impress people.

1. Tone of voice.
2. Length.
3. Words.
4. Volume.

B. Keep on babbling (7-8).

1. Words don't impress God.
2. Personality.
 - a. Luther: spent hours in prayer.
 - b. Spurgeon: say what you need to say and move on.
 - c. Moody: while our brother finishes his prayer, we will continue the service.

II. To do.

- A. Prayer room (6).
 - 1. Private.
 - 2. Quiet.
 - 3. (Individual prayer is powerful -- Jas.5:16b.)
- B. Pray in Jesus's pattern (9-13).
 - 1. Glorify God (which includes thankfulness).
 - 2. Pray for God's will.
 - 3. Our own needs (implies needs of others).
 - 4. Forgiveness of sins.
 - 5. Safety from the evil one.
- C. This pattern is not restrictive.
 - 1. Praying for others.
 - 2. Corporate prayer (Mt.18:19-20; Ac.1:14).

III. Why does prayer work?

- A. Don't know.
- B. We are told to pray (Mt.7:7-8).
- C. Unleashes God's power.
- D. Forges a bond of unity between Christians.
- E. Every great work of God has been born of prayer.

IV. What to pray.

- A. Jesus taught us HOW to pray in Mt. 5.
- B. Jesus taught us WHAT to pray in Mt. 9:37-38.
 - 1. Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.
 - 2. Andrew brought to Jesus the boy with his lunch.
 - 3. Andrew brought the Greek inquirers.
- C. Obviously, there is more, but this is a good start.